

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 OPR-02 SCCT-02 PC-04

SIL-01 LAB-06 COME-00 EB-11 DRC-01 /166 W

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P 272005Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8694

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 4682

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS PGOV ET

SUBJ: STATEMENT BY "COMMITTEE OF COORDINATION" ON ARRESTS IN
ETHIOPIA

REFS: ADDIS 4670, 4671 AND 4680

THERE FOLLOWS FULL TEXT OF A STATEMENT, ASCRIBED BY ENA TO THE
COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE ARMED AND POLICE FORCES, RELEASED
EVENING APRIL 27:

"TWENTY FORMER CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN
DETAINED BY UNITS OF THE ARMED AND POLICE FORCES AND WILL BE
CONFINED IN ONE PLACE PENDING THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSION OF
ENQUIRY WHETHER THEY ARE INNOCENT OR GUILTY.

"A COMMITTEE WHICH COORDINATED THE ROUND UP OF FORMER MINIS-
TERS AND OFFICIALS LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING AFTER INFORMING
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HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY HAILE SELASSIE I, DISCLOSED TODAY THAT 15

MEMBERS OF THE FORMER CABINET, INCLUDING THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER, TWO 'ENDERASSIES', THE FORMER CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, THE FORMER LORDY MAYOR OF ADDIS ABABA AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA HAVE BEEN DETAINED AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FOURTH ARMY DIVISION.

"THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE ARMED AND POLICE FORCES, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT NOON TODAY AT THE FOURTH ARMY DIVISION AND CHARGED THAT BECAUSE THEY WERE ALLOWED TO MOVE FREELY, FORMER MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS HAD, THROUGH SINISTER MACHINATION, TRIED TO SOW DISCORD AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

"HE SAID NONE OF THE FORMER MINISTERS RESISTED ARREST AND SOME GAVE UP THEMSELVES VOLUNTARILY.

"THE CHAIRMAN ALSO DISCLOSED THAT EIGHT EXECUTIVES OF THE GENERAL ETHIOPIAN TRANSPORT COMPANY, KNOWN AS ANBASSA BUS COMPANY, WHICH SERVES ADDIS ABABA, HAVE ALSO BEEN DETAINED AT THE FOURTH ARMY DIVISION FOR QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION WITH CONTINUED STRIKE OF BUS DRIVERS THAT KEPT ADDIS ABABA WITHOUT A BUS SERVICE FOR THE LAST 22 DAYS.

"THE CHAIRMAN SAID THE DETAINED FORMER OFFICIALS WILL BE TREATED AS ALL PRISONERS AWAITING TRIAL. HE ADDED THAT IT WILL BE DECIDED IN THE FUTURE WHERE THEY WILL BE KEPT IN ADDIS ABABA.

"THE FORMER MINISTERS DETAINED AT THE FOURTH ARMY DIVISION ARE H.E. TSEHAFAE TAEZAZ AKLILOU HABTE WOLD, H.E. ATO AKALE WORK HABTE WOLD, H.E. ATO GETAHUN TESSEMA, H.E. LT. GEN. KEBEDE GEBRE, H.E. DR. TESFAYE GEBRE-EGZY, H.E. ATO KETEMA YIFRU, H.E. ATO MULATU DEBEBE, H.E. ATO SEIFU MAHTEME-SELASSIE, H.E. ATO MAMMO TADESSE, H.E. ATO TADESSE YACOB, H.E. ATO KETEMA ABEBE, AND H.E. TSEHAFAE TAEZAZ TEFERA WORK KIDANE WOLD.

"THE FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER, H.E. DEJAZMATCH KASSA WOLDE MARIAM, IS SAID TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES.

"OTHER OFFICIALS DETAINED ARE H.E. DEJAZMATCH SOLOMON ABRAHAM, FORMER 'ENDRASSIE' OF WOLLO GOVERNORATE, H.E. DEJAZMATCH SAHLU DEFAYE, FORMER 'ENDERASSIE' OF ARUSSI GOVERNORATE, LT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GEN. YILMA SHIBESHI, FORMER CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, H.E. DR. HAILE GHIORGIS WORKINEH, FORMER LORD MAYOR OF ADDIS ABABA, AND H.E. ATO MENASSIE LEMMA, GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA.

"THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE SAID THAT THE ACTION TAKEN IN DETAINING FORMER MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS WAS INTENDED TO RESTORE PEACE IN THE COUNTRY. HE SAID IT IS THE WISH

OF THE ARMED AND POLICE FORCES THAT THE ENTIRE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE SAFEGUARD THE CROWN AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIVES OF THE NEW CABINET FOR THE GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

"THE CHAIRMAN SAID THE ENTIRE ETHIOPIAN ARMED AND POLICE FORCES ARE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE NEW CABINET AND WILL RESIST ANY ONE WHO TRIES TO CREATE CHAOS IN THE COUNTRY AND DISUNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE.

"HE STATED THAT THE NEW CABINET WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON ITS WORK PROGRAMME TO ALLEVIATE THE GRAVE CRISIS THE COUNTRY IS FACING ONLY IF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY PREVAIL IN THE NATION. HE SAID EVERYONE SHOULD REALIZE THAT STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS WILL ONLY HELP THOSE WHO HARBOUR ILL WILL AGAINST ETHIOPIA.

" HE APPEALED, ON BEHALF OF THE ARMED AND POLICE FORCES, TO THE STRIKING EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY'S BUS COMPANY AND DRESSERS, COOKS AND CLEANERS IN ALL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO RESUME WORK AND AWAIT DECISION TO THEIR DEMANDS. HE SAID THE SERVICES RENDERED BY BUS EMPLOYEES AND HOSPITAL ASSISTANTS ARE VITAL AND THEY SHOULD RESUME WORK ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS."

COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT (1) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF COORDINATION HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED; (2) THE LIST OF PRISONERS MAY WELL BE INCOMPLETE; (3) THE COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY REMAINS CENTRAL TO THE JUDICIAL PROCESSES TO WHICH THE DETAINEES ARE TO BE SUBJECTED; (4) THE EMPEROR WAS "INFORMED" NOT ASKED; (5) THE ACTION IS NOT RPT NOT TAKEN TO SET UP A MILITARY GOVERNMENT BUT IN SUPPORT OF THE ANNOUNCED REFORM PROGRAM OF THE ENDALKACHEW CABINET.

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, LABOR STRIKES, CIVIL DISORDERS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS04682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740101-0096
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974049/aaaaahcj.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ADDIS 4670, 4671 AND 4680
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATEMENT BY "COMMITTEE OF COORDINATION" ON ARRESTS IN ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005